movement of labour across national boundaries, though there is need for lot more liberalisation of restrictions in several countries against immigration of labour.

So far as India is concerned, since 1991 when economic reforms were introduced, it is estimated, that 18.78 million additional jobs hve been created, 6.58 million during 1992-93, 5.02 million during 1993-94 and 7.18 million during 1994-95.

In any case, the social dimensions of economic reforms including in the area of unemployment have been kept in view, and following the manoeuverability gained through overall fiscal correctives, allocations for social sectors and poverty alleviation programmes have been significantly stepped up during and since 1993-94.

In addition, utilising resources available under the National Renewal Fund, allocations are also being made for training and retraining to improve the employability of the workers and job seekers.

Demand to repeal essential Commodities Act

*3. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether federation of all India Food Dealers has recommended that the Essential Commodities (special provisions) Act, 1981 be repealed immediately;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The validity of Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 was extended for five years beyond 31.8.1992 after consultation with the State Govemments/UT Administrations. None of the State/UT Governments- at the time opposed the extension. This Act was enacted and its validity extended to deal more effectively with persons indulging in hoarding, blackmarketing etc. Repealing the Act has not been found to be feasible under the circumstances. However, the Central Government has advised the State/UT Governments to exercise the powers under the Act with great care and caution so that no harassment is caused to honest traders or businessmen.

Duty Exemption under EPCG

*4. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh application has been received from Sterling Cellular Limited for duty exemption under the EPCG Schemes after two earlier applications for similar duty exemptions were rejected by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government now propose to reverse the earlier decision; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Ms. Sterling Cellular Limited have filed an application under 15% concessional duty EPCG Schemes as a service provider which is under examination. Earlier they had made an application under Zero Duty EPCG Scheme which was not approved as it was felt that the party may not come under the purview of this Scheme.

मध्य प्रदेश में अमरोली कोलियरी गोली-कांड

*5 **श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि एन.सी.एल. सिंगरोली के अंतर्गत अरोली कोलियरी परियोजना के प्रबंधन ने